

Fredonia Township Board Regular Meeting
September 18, 2023 6:30 PM
Fredonia Township Hall
8803 17 Mile Rd, Marshall, MI 49068

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS present: Doug Damon, Supervisor Cathy Combs, Clerk JC Skowron, Treasurer Kyler Speaker, Trustee Terry Day, Trustee
STAFF present: Phil Damon, Fire Chief Jacob Washburn, Deputy Supervisor/FD Training Officer Dan Livingston Sr., Calhoun County Planning Commission George Crandall, Twp. Planning Committee
 Terry Travis, Code Enforcement Officer

PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE:

AGENDA – Additions/Deletions: Deputy Clerk Wages

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

Angela Semifero/Marshall District Library Director – introduced herself and library offerings along with brochures for a variety of programs and calendars. She shared that the library has more than 60,000 books and that over 100,000 books were checked out last year. They can get books from other libraries. Tech support available for cell phones, laptops, even assisting with medical equipment synced up to your phone, etc. There is a monthly newsletter of programs being offered. Right now, they have a plant library and are offering Introduction Plant Parenting, etc. September is National Library Sign Up Month. Several local stores/restaurants will give you a discount if you show your library card this month. The library will accept donations (one box of books) each month. They do heat treat them to keep bed bugs down. MDL continues to offer free Wi-Fi in the Fredonia Township Hall parking lot.

CORRESPONDENCE: N/A

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH: August 21, 2023

Terry made a motion and Kyler supported to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED AS READ

FINANCIAL REPORT-

JC provided Revenue and Expenditure report with % of budget used as of YTD. She will be following up with the County as the township received a few interest checks which were not expected. JC mentioned that many residents took advantage of paying their taxes the Saturday prior to due to date as it was convenient for the residents that work during the week.

FILE FOR AUDIT

READING OF THE BILLS by **Cathy Combs**

An invoice register report was presented and reviewed by board. Terry motioned and Kyler supported. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED AS READ

REPORTS:

Fire Department: Phil reported 2 fire and 14 medical calls for the month of August, 2023. Training is requiring more houncluded emergency preparedness and currently seeking someone to teach a class on what to look for with accidents for battery operated vehicles. Currently checking into hot sticks that will check to see if the car is energized (shorted out) for safety of emergency personnel to avoid being electrocuted. (\$300-\$600) State Fire Marshall is enforcing additional training hours for the whole team. Fire Fighters require 36 hours in three years, Officers need 8 hours more, Chiefs need 12 more hours and Instructors need additional on top of that.

Ambulance: Meeting is Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023

Cemetery: There were four burials (three of which were cremations) and six lots were sold since the last meeting. The shed needs to be refurbished and repainted. Pot holes need to be filled due to mud holes created by rain and volunteers are needed. Four

foundations were placed this weekend. Doug is meeting with Brad Parker this week to review cemetery maps, Cathy has photos from 2019 to assist in creating a map for section 3 and filling in gaps, etc.

Road: C Drive Project, chip and sealed last week, needs to be striped. Next meeting is Nov. 14, 2023

Zoning/Ordinance: Short Term Rentals – new ordinance wording was sent to township attorney but no response as of today. Suggestion to put into effect for January 1, 2024 the updated ordinance from December 2022 as the new ordinance has more restrictions. Board will need to vote on updated ordinance. Feedback has been that updated ordinance is too strict. A public hearing could be held if needed. Encouraged board members to read current ordinance on the website and vote in October on an effective date. Next meeting is Nov 11, 2023

Code Enforcement: Terry Travis looked into an ongoing dog issue on A. Drive South of 15 Mile Road. They've been told to call dispatch. Tickets have been issues in the past. Another issue regarding a large dumpster in the yard has been resolved as the dumpster has been emptied recently. Fire on G Drive – plan to demolish and rebuild, nothing has happened yet, owners have removed trailer they were temporarily living in. We may need to condemn the house if no action is taken soon.

Planning Commission: Then next meeting was scheduled for October 9 and then rescheduled for October 11. Plan is to finish solar ordinance and then will get a clean copy from Robert to send to lawyer with public hearing following.

OLD BUSINESS:

***ARPA Funds:** Board discussed the following

***ARPA Spreadsheet:** Kitchen/hall flooring – quote for \$1.44 sq ft. Doug went to Coldwater to check on some chairs but they were fabric so we are still working on finding chairs. Terry made a motion and Kyler supported for the approval on the kitchen floor. Motion carried unanimously.

***Doors** – working on a schedule to have repairs completed, handicap buttons have been installed

***Janitorial Position:** Still searching for candidates. We need to advertise. Terry motioned to run an add to fill the position, JC supported. Motion carried unanimously.

***Fire Substation #2:** Doug is waiting on a call from the insurance company.

***Cemetery Rules:** Board reviewed page by page updates that needed to be made. Page 3 (c) spelling mistake, cause of death is public information, Page 4 – location on the lots, lot care, foundations are four inches beyond the headstone, headstone and foundation measurements need to be spelled out for single and double lots, Page 4 #5 all markers should be installed by the Sexton unless other arrangements are made; #6 update wording to read “shall not be installed without prior permission by Sexton”; Page 5 #1 no interment shall take place without a burial permit or certificate of cremation; #6 not more than two cremains per grave (could we increase to four?) one casketed and one set of cremated remains or four sets of cremations, or two sets of cremains and one casketed remains or four cremains, (strongly suggest outer burial containers for urns), etc. Decorations: not more than one urn per lot, lot owners' responsibility to plant and maintain urn (many have two). If it reads one per lot, they could have two urns if there are two lots. Fall clean up – everything should be removed by October 31. Doug believes it should be the first Saturday in November. Jacob suggested wording to say “Foundation orders should be placed by April 15 to be placed by Memorial Day.” Doug will continue to work on wording and will bring back to October meeting.

***Planning Services Contract** – Proposed process is for resident to turn in building permit to Cathy, she would forward to County, County would review and if it was acceptable, they would get back with Cathy. If there was a question or problem, they would contact the resident. Currently the process is resident turns permit in to Cathy, Cathy sends to Frank or Robert depending on the permit, (Robert use to do this but is not able to due to time constraints). Doug mentioned the county is open five days a week when the township is only open two half days so it could help expedite the process. The County would not interpret anything. We can withdraw or the County can withdraw no less than 180 days if needed. Terry made a motion and JC supported to approve the agreement. Motion carried unanimously. Board will sign tomorrow and Doug will take it to the County. Will be effective as soon as it is signed and approved.

***Noise Ordinance** – Doug called local township supervisors to see if they had noise ordinances and how they enforced them. Cathy found a definition of noise and nuisance and read aloud (music and variety of vehicles, animals, etc.). Doug called attorney for State Police and he said it would be difficult to enforce without full time law enforcement and how do you determine decibels. Terry Travis did speak with County Sheriff about this and the process could be more costly than the ticket. State Police does have a decibel meter. Convis and Tekonsha have an officer during the week. Consider looking into a part time or full-time officer (weekends) and partner with another township to be able to afford. Cathy would like to put something into place for the habitual abusers. Noise complaints are mostly around Lyon Lake. Lynn (resident) suggested deputizing a board member to enforce. Will place on hold for further investigation.

***Snow Plowing** – two bids submitted so far: Dustin Mauer bid will remain the same and New Horizon’s fee schedule is laid out differently (will need to ask questions for clarification); waiting on Earth Fathers bid and Jacob mentioned his mother’s bid will remain the same. Will need to discuss with company that is awarded the bid that we have a new parking lot. Will table until October meeting.

***Deputy Clerk Rate of Pay:** Fredonia resident is interested in the Deputy Clerk position; Bobby Jo Garnett has been assisting in the Tekonsha Township office and would like to assist in Fredonia as well. Cathy would like to pay her \$15/hr. which is what the janitorial and cemetery positions are paid. Cathy motioned and Terry supported. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

***Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System** – currently Fredonia has a mutual aid agreement within the county. State of Michigan is asking for something broader. MMABAS – where if something catastrophic would happen like a tornado, fire, mass shooting, etc. (where several different depts would be needed to cover for several days). This would do away with written agreements and would be covered under MMABAS allowing us to pull in more resources. Fredonia could also assist if we had the staff and resources available. No more than 30% of resources would go out to ensure coverage in own township. Cathy was asking for expenses. It is not renewable, once signed in. No fees.

***Fence Repair-Township Hall Perimeter** – fence damages happen every year due to snow removal, do we want to be repaired, will get a few estimates, to consider.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for any new issues)

*Michigan State Police called Doug to update on the marijuana issue, that they are still looking into and have not forgotten us. This has been going on for two years. Resident shared he has written Debbie Stabenow and she said that it was a local issue. The neighbor continues to expand his marijuana business. Getting conflicting information on who needs to enforce the ordinance for marijuana. Resident suggested if you are going to enforce one ordinance then enforce all ordinances.

*Can you investigate having a deputy five days a week, even part time deputy? Have attorney send a letter to resident and give so many days to comply. Then send Terry Travis with another person to go out and check on things.

BOARD COMMENT (TIME LIMIT-3 MINUTES PER ISSUE PER PERSON)

Terry Day liked the way the board tables were set up as it was easier to hear.

Kyler Speaker suggested we create ordinances that we can enforce and to be cautious about what we create.

Supervisor Doug Damon adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM

Minutes prepared by Laura Miller

Cathy Combs, Township Clerk _____

Date: September 18, 2023

Doug Damon, Township Supervisor _____

Date: